

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

JOHN BOUCHER,

Plaintiff,

v.

W. BRADLEY MARTIN,

Defendant.

PRELIMINARY PRETRIAL
CONFERENCE ORDER

18-cv-760-jdp

This court held a telephonic preliminary pretrial conference on September 8, 2020. Plaintiff appeared by Lonnie Story. Defendant appeared by Sandra Tarver. The court set the schedule for this case and advised the parties that their conduct throughout this case is governed by this pretrial conference order and the attachments to it.

The parties and their attorneys must at all times treat everyone involved in this lawsuit with courtesy and consideration. The parties must attend diligently to their obligations in this lawsuit and must reasonably accommodate each other in all matters so as to secure the just, speedy and inexpensive resolution of each proceeding in this matter as required by Fed. R. Civ. Pro. 1. Failure to do so shall have consequences.

1. Amendments to the Pleadings: By Leave of Court

Amendments to the pleadings may be filed and served without leave of court through the date set forth above. After that, Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 15 applies, and the later a party seeks leave of the court to amend, the less likely it is that justice will require the amendment.

2. Disclosure of Experts: Plaintiff: December 18, 2020

Defendant: February 12, 2021

All disclosures mandated by this paragraph must comply with the requirements of Rule 26(a)(2). Any employee of a party who will be offering expert opinions during any phase of this case must provide a written report that complies with Rule 26(a)(2)(B).

This order does not allow a third round of rebuttal expert reports. Supplementation of an expert's report pursuant to Rule 26(e) must be in writing and must be served not later than five calendar days before the expert's deposition, or before the general discovery cutoff if no one deposes the expert. Supplementation under Rule 26(e) is appropriate only to correct mistakes and oversights, not to include new examples, illustrations, or analyses that could have been included in an original expert report. Any further expert report is allowed only by stipulation of all parties, or by leave of court.

The court does not formally qualify witnesses as experts. If an opposing party believes that an expert's testimony should be disallowed or limited, the opposing party should move to exclude the testimony before trial, typically at summary judgment or through a motion in limine. It may be appropriate for the opposing party to file a separate *Daubert* motion, particularly if the putative deficiencies of the expert are apparent significantly before the summary judgment deadline.

Failure to comply with these deadlines and procedures could result in the court striking the testimony of a party's experts pursuant to Rule 37. The parties may agree between themselves to modify these deadlines, so long as the modification does not affect the deadlines for filing documents with the court.

3. Discovery Cutoff: April 2, 2021

All discovery in this case must be completed not later than the date set forth above, absent written agreement of all parties to some other date. Absent written agreement of the parties or a court order to the contrary, all discovery must conform with the requirements of Rules 26 through 37 and 45. Rule 26(a)(1) governs initial disclosures unless the parties agree in writing to the contrary.

The following discovery materials *shall not* be filed with the court unless they concern a motion or other matter under consideration by the court: interrogatories; responses to interrogatories; requests for documents; responses to requests for documents; requests for admission; and responses to requests for admission.

A party need not file a deposition transcript with the court until that party is using the deposition in support of some other submission, at which time the entire deposition must be filed. All deposition transcripts must be in compressed format. The court will not accept duplicate transcripts. The parties must determine who will file each transcript.

A party may not file a motion regarding discovery until that party has made a good faith attempt to resolve the dispute. All efforts to resolve the dispute must be set forth in any subsequent discovery motion filed with this court. By this order, the court requires all parties to a discovery dispute to attempt to resolve it quickly and in good faith. Failure to do so could result in cost shifting and sanctions under Rule 37.

This court also expects the parties to file discovery motions promptly if self-help fails. Parties who fail to do so may not seek to change the schedule on the ground that discovery proceeded too slowly to meet the deadlines set in this order.

All discovery-related motions must be accompanied by a supporting brief, affidavit, or other document showing a *prima facie* entitlement to the relief requested. Any response to a discovery motion must be served and filed within seven calendar days of service of the motion. Replies may not be filed unless requested by the court.

4. Settlement Letters: April 2, 2021

Not later than this date, each party must submit a confidential settlement letter to the clerk of court at clerkofcourt@wiwd.uscourts.gov. The letter should set forth the terms and conditions upon which that party would settle this case. These letters will not become part of the record in this case and will not be shared with the presiding judge or opposing counsel.

The clerk of court may independently initiate settlement discussions with counsel based upon the settlement letters. A party can also request mediation at any time, before or after settlement letters are filed, by contacting the clerk of court via e-mail or telephone at 608-261-5795.

5. Rule 26(a)(3) Disclosures and all motions in limine: April 9, 2021

Responses: April 23, 2021

The first date is the deadline to file and serve all Rule 26(a)(3) disclosures, as well as all motions in limine, proposed voir dire questions, proposed jury instructions, and proposed verdict forms. All responses in opposition are due by the second date. The format for submitting proposed voir dire questions, jury instructions and verdict forms is set forth in the Procedures Governing Final Pretrial Submissions, which is attached.

6. Final Pretrial Conference: May 5, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

Lead counsel for each party must appear in person. Any deposition that has not been filed with the Clerk of Court by the date of the final pretrial conference shall not be used by any party for any purpose at trial.

7. Trial: May 10, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Trial shall be to a jury of eight and shall be bifurcated. The parties estimate that this case will take two to three days to try. Absent further order of this court, the issues to be tried shall be limited to those identified by the parties in their pretrial conference report to the court.

This case will be tried in an electronically equipped courtroom and the parties shall present their evidence using this equipment. Counsel shall ensure the compatibility of any of their personal equipment with the court's system prior to the final pretrial conference or shall forfeit their right to use any personal equipment that is not compatible with the court's system.

8. Reporting Obligation of Corporate Parties.

All parties that are required to file a disclosure of corporate affiliations and financial interest form have a continuing obligation throughout this case promptly to amend that form to reflect any changes in the answers.

Entered this 10th day of September, 2020.

BY THE COURT:

/s/

STEPHEN L. CROCKER
Magistrate Judge